

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORC, SOPN, IN, MX

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL CONFERENCE OPENS

REF: NEW DELHI 9435, NEW DELHI 10144 (NOTAL)

1. THE NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL CONFERENCE OPENED JULY 8 WITH AN ADDRESS BY MRS. GANDHI (NEW DELHI 10144), CHOSE INDIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING V.C. SHUKLA AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZED ITSELF INTO TWO COMMITTEES. (NEW DELHI 10130).

2. SHUKLA ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE ON ITS FIRST DAY, IDENTIFYING TWO ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM HE SAID FACED THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN THE MASS MEDIA FIELD: FIRST, " THE IDEA OF 'FREE' FLOW OF INFORMATION FITS INSIDIOUSLY INTO THE PACKAGE OF OTHER KINDS OF 'FREEDOM' STILL CHAMPIONED BY THE ADHERENTS OF 19TH CENTURY LIBERALISM"; SECOND, THERE IS A "WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THE ADVANCED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, OCCASIONED BY THE GALLOPING TECHNOLOGY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA."

3. "IN THE PREVAILING SITUATION, " SHUKLA SAID, " THE AFFLUENT COUNTRIES TAKE ADVANTAGE SIMULTANEOUSLY OF THEIR EARLIER LEAD IN THE CREATION OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

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AND THE LIBERAL DOCTRINE OF 'FREEDOM' OF INFORMATION,

LEADING TO THE CONTINUANCE OF A SUBTLE FORM OF COLONIALISM OVER THE OTHER COUNTRIES. AFFLUENT SOCIETIES STILL LIKE TO TREAT FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN NEWS AND INFORMATOON AS A COMMODITY RATHER THAN AS A SERVICE."

4. SHUKLA ADVOCATED EVOLVING "AN INTERNATIONAL CODE ON THE FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM WELL-EQUIPPED COUNTRIES TO THOSE NOT SO WELL EQUIPPED, SO THAT THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE COUNTRIES BEING INFORMED ARE PROTECTED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE RIGHT OF THE COUNTRIES TRYING TO INFORM."

5. AMONG AIDEBARS APPEARING IN THE BROAD AND RATHER DIFFUSE ENGLISH-LANGUATE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE CONFERENCE TODAY WAS AN INTERVIEW IN THE TIMES OF INDIA WITH THE MEXICAN CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE, DR. MAURO JIMINEX, UNDERSECRETARY TO THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT FOR PRESS AND ALLIED AFFAIRS. THE TIMES SAID, " DR. JIMENEZ EXPLAINED WESTERN MEDIA TENDED TO DISTORT BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEWS TO SUIT THE PURPOSES OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE EMPHASIS ON THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS GAVE AN UNBALANCED VIEW." HE BELIEVED THAT CREATION OF A NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL WOULD HELP REMEDY THE SITUATION.SAXBE

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